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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A REGIONAL PROJECT OF ASIA AND PACIFIC

(RAS/92/G33) - Development of Least-Cost Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plans in Asia

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	18 August 1993
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed executing agency:	Asian Development Bank (ASDB)
Government implementing agency:	ADB, ESCAP
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$9 500 000 Source of funds: GEF
Total UNDP budget:	$9 500 000

Project background

The Framework Convention on Climate Change signed by 154 countries at the historic United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) has recognized the threat to development posed by climate change and the need for the countries to work together to reduce future emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), mainly carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, chlorofluorocarbons which have been identified as the primary agents of global climate change. The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), established to study the scientific aspects of climate change, has confirmed that emissions resulting from human activities are substantially increasing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and that global mean air surface temperature has increased by 0.3 to 0.6 degrees Celsius over the last hundred years. To reduce the uncertainties affecting the timing, the magnitude and the regional patterns of climate change, it is necessary to improve the scientific understanding of this phenomenon and develop better climate models. This will, inter alia, require the development of more realistic scenarios for future emissions, the establishment of national inventories of current emissions, sustained and increased support for climate research activities and improved international exchange of climate data.

The 12 Asian countries participating in this Regional Programme present a great diversity in terms of size, population, level of industrialisation and emissions of GHGs. Both carbon dioxide and methane are extremely important in the Asian context. The major energy supply in the region is coal which is available in abundance, particularly in India and China. The combustion of coal releases more carbon dioxide than that of oil and gas. Similarly, the release of methane from paddy fields and cattle contributes substantially to the radiative forcing in Asia. As the region is also home to significant low-lying areas, there is a considerable risk of flooding, particularly for parts of Bangladesh, Sumatra and many of the Pacific Islands if climate change would entail a sea-level rise as predicted by the global scientific community. Any change in climate could also severely affect the region's crop production through far more severe droughts and floods. Asia's share of

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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global emissions stands at about 21 percent today and is estimated to rise to 35 percent by the year 2025. The countries of the region are at various stages in the formulation of response and mitigation strategies with some countries working on estimates of inventories of GHGs while others already carry out measurements and others are still undertaking technological and economic analyses.

Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) strengthen the region's capacity (scientific, technical, human resource, and institutional) to address the major issues related to GHG emissions including their estimation, measurement and tracing; (b) assist the participating countries in formulating response and mitigation strategies and devise Plans of Action; and (c) support the participating countries in the identification and implementation of cost effective opportunities for limiting emission and facilitate the leveraging of funds for follow-up investment.

Project activities will include: (a) conducting comprehensive baseline inventories of GHGs based on methodologies endorsed by the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); (b) estimating costs associated with the use of specific technologies for reducing GHGs and design of cost effective reduction initiatives (CERI); (c) implementing national and regional plans and strategies for limiting emissions of GHG's including resource mobilisation strategies; and (d) providing trained personnel and improved human and institutional capacities related to climate change issues.

The project will draw heavily on expertise available from within the region. International consultants will be recruited for short-term missions to address the above four thematic issues through training and technical advise. Where equipment is to be used, training will include hands-on experience with the use of the appropriate instruments and other relevant equipment. Given the multitude of GHG related activities currently underway in the region, the project will also serve as their locus and clearing house through the establishment of data bank and a referral service.

Inputs

UNDP will provide national and international consultants at the country and inter-country level experienced in thematic training; on-the-job training, workshops and seminars; equipment pertaining to industrialisation and emissions of GHGs; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	5 351 600
PA Phase	304 200
Overhead (ADB)	1 055 800
Training	1 340 000
Equipment	1 320 000
Miscellaneous	128 400
Total	9 500 000

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